

Four Decade Players

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Cal Ripken, Jr.'s consecutive games played streak is the ultimate in player endurance in major league baseball. However, there is another category of longevity in baseball careers that only a relatively few major leaguers have accomplished - playing in four different decades.

Following is a list of major league players in this four-decade category:

POSITION PLAYERS

Player	Years	Pos.	G	Avg.	HR	RBI
Jim O'Rourke	1876-1904	OF	1774	.310	51	830
Kid Gleason	1888-1912	2B	1966	.261	15	823
Eddie Collins	1906-1930	2B	2826	.333	47	1300
Ted Williams	1939-1960	OF	2292	.344	521	1839
Mickey Vernon	1939-1960	1B	2409	.286	172	1311
Minnie Minoso	1949-1980	OF	1841	.298	186	1023
Tim McCarver	1959-1980	C	1909	.271	97	645
Willie McCovey	1959-1980	1B	2588	.270	521	1555
Carlton Fisk	1969-1993	C	2499	.269	376	1330
Rick Dempsey	1969-1992	C	1766	.233	96	471

PITCHERS

Player	Years	G	W	L	ERA	SO
Kid Gleason	1888-1912	299	134	134	3.79	744
Jack Quinn	1909-1933	755	247	217	3.27	1329
Bobo Newsom	1929-1953	600	211	222	3.98	2082
Early Wynn	1939-1963	691	300	244	3.54	2334
Jim Kaat	1959-1983	898	283	237	3.35	2461
Nolan Ryan	1966-1993	807	324	292	3.19	5714
Jerry Reuss	1969-1990	628	220	191	3.64	1907

Some highlights of these players' careers include:

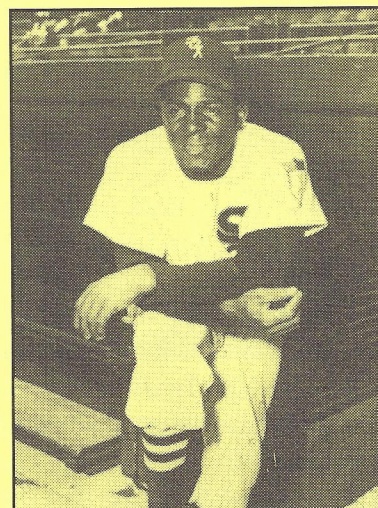
Early Wynn got his 300th victory on July 13, 1963. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1972.

Minnie Minoso was the first black player to appear for the Chicago White Sox on May 5, 1951. He came out of retirement on September 11, 1976 (after 12 years) to play in his fourth decade. On September 12, he became the oldest player (54 years old) to hit safely in a major league game. In August, 1993 Minoso recorded his sixth decade.

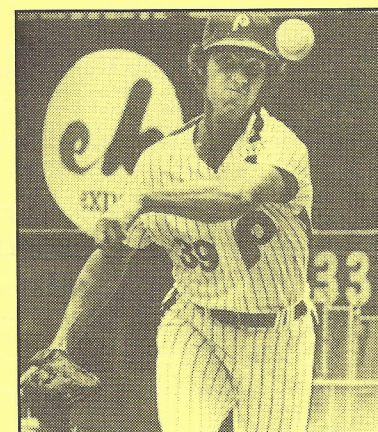
The all-time strikeout leader, **Nolan Ryan**, made his major league debut on September 11, 1968, with the Mets. On May 1, 1991, he pitched his seventh career no-hitter.

On June 27, 1980, **Jerry Reuss** pitched a major league no-hitter. He recorded his 200th major league victory on May 9, 1988.

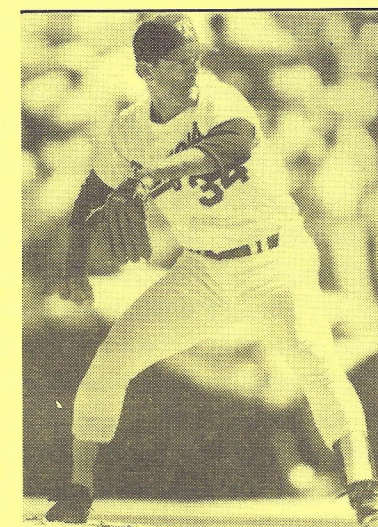
Ted Williams, who was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1966. Williams hit a double in his major league debut on April 20, 1939. He hit his first major league home run three days later. He hit a home run in his last major league at-bat in Fenway Park on September 28, 1960.



Minnie Minoso



Jim Kaat



Nolan Ryan

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